American Women Missionaries and Pioneers Collection

Part 1: Missionaries

The Irene Forsythe Hanson Papers, 1921-1980

Series I

Correspondence
(Incoming and outgoing intermixed)

Folder Description:

Correspondence,
May 31, 1935–November 2, 1935

Box Number:	***Folder Number:***
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Tsingtao
Sunday May 31.

A B

No.

Heart of mine:

I'm back again + I figure this ought to reach you + maybe one more before I see you my how near those words seem - but almost unreal + dreamlike. I suppose I shall realize eventually that they are true. I find each day here so full with preparations examinations etc bring the reality nearer + the dream nearer its fulfillment.

I have three letters from you - I'll answer first. Well we had our weeks of dust storms before we went to Taifu just about the same time. The storm center must have gone or across. Since the rain there has been no wind, no parent fuss here tho - not even parents sorry to say. I hadn't known what Sam has been doing - Teaching - still no moody dream?

I hope I can see Mr. Miller so I can take a gift to him + the stenographer. Then for Isabel's sake I want to see him. Isabel has a baby girl - Kathryn.

just had a card announcing it.
Yes mummie dear - you're a great
time keeping ~~needed~~ thing at the place
you need them! I know!
You too are a "gospel gypsy"
with me! Eulas & her busy life!
I can imagine - I'm sure she
is being used - she & Ray is
their ministry! glad Aunt Glennie
is well again! You did right dear
& it was very thoughtful of you
to change the letters - I'll see
about the list - maybe hold
them there till I come.
My! such preparations to me! I
feel very unworthy of all this
I can't see you, one minute too
soon but fear it may be a
hardship to some - I don't want
that! I was wondering today
whether I'd be able to see you
before customs or to have to wait
till that is over! That suspence
would be bad! I filled out a
Board's bank re speaking trips.
Their greatest number of questions
was about visiting my supporters
in Roseburg etc. That will not

6 Tsi Yang Road
June 19, 1935

Dearest Mumsie Mine:

My! I have neglected you! + today I must write a letter for sure or I'll be neglecting you for another whole week + that would be inexcusable! for tomorrow is mission meeting opening at the Gltus Huk — for a week. I am to go out to stay out there. Miss Law will be in here keeping house but I'll go to stay with the young Kepler's located at Tenglein. The Wilsons of Tsowfu + Margeruf Speake of Tengchow are to be the Iler guests p.g. (paying guests). It will be very nice to get to know them better. I see so few folks in the winter that all want me to be out at Huk during this week for committee meeting (tho I do not expect to have to do much of that — but mostly play

with any free time after 3 sessions per day — Then I'll come back in here for most of July. The August vacation I've not planned yet ——

Now to answer your letter my dear sweet mother. I have a pile up of them. After Yang chia Sian time I went to miss Fair again for ten days rest + it was surely that spelled with capitals — We were tired but what gave most rest was the fact that no one demanded anything of us — all were so busy with harvesting wheat from early dawn till late at night that we just relaxed! It surely was a blessing to have those days of utter rest — They have a vest courtyard + she has fixed + with white paper ceiling + two rooms whitewashed lived there + there were no immediately near neighbors with children — so those rooms are just about the most quiet I know of anywhere —

3] How matter had all her wheat land out to renters this year so she wasn't so busy either + that made it easy to be there - knowing that we weren't such an extra burden - Shy all sent their love to you - Matter Lans + Sallers, I have been back here a week + there hasn't been a bit of rest time here + you see how slow I am writing Life in here is just as full of demands as in country - only of a different nature, Our station has been made sad over the serious illness of Conrad's little boy, Raphael, He has some very serious disease of the blood which destroys red corpuscles - + is noted in the hospital + so difficult to treat. Radium seems to be the only treatment but it is very questionable. Marie + Ralph have been fine thru it — and added to that a chinese bank failure involving a loss of 4000 — most of Jane's college savings were in it too — then Jane was bitten by a dog + is taking hydrophobia injections

4. so they are having a full share of testings
I was thinking how much the master must
love Marie + Ralph — of course it isn't so
easy to see the love on the surface but
faith knows it is there, How all of these
trials + testing do weld us together —
& now see a bit what we are meeting
as a station. They took Raphael to Peking
Marie has had a sad waiting — The station
group have taken an offering to help
Marie to go to Peking too. How wondrous
it is that God's love is so big + sufficient
Later Now I didn't get this off day before
yesterday as I had so many interruptions.
Jean + Stella came in the a.m. + as I
was writing came in — + we had a visit
Stella is unusually well this well-first
in China + has been in country late
with Jean + will have the responsi-
bility for Bible school there next year,
It has been so good to see them +
I was glad for a visit, Then Emily
Russell who came down to go to the
country with us the last place.

5] came + then it was time to go & meet Martha + P. M. packed + downtown - I feel terribly about delay. Then I am out here + meetings + talking (which I am not able to do you know!) + all I've just had to piece this out - wrote some in meeting this a.m + now am waiting to get ready for dinner — Am to go over to Br. C. E. Scott's — the father of the mrs. Stam of C.I.M. who was killed just before Christmas by communists. His father led the Bible study on Phil 1:12 - and this a.m. referred to her several times. The baby — called the "miracle Baby" is here - I'll see her tonight,

Now again I'll get out your letters Yes, dear I'm satisfied about Mrs. Burkhart just so all is right there it is with me. So Carl back in Navy — where is he — will he be back to China? So glad for the experiences the boys will have I suppose by now they will back soon here to - I'm enjoying that square laundry soap so much — brought out a cake to

he gave the alter away, got a present of chefoo
5¢ a bar soap. the other day not bad.
How quickly the time goes! Three years have
passed already + now just the length of
the first period in china left before
another. I almost spoke of it — how well
5 years go more quickly without the
constant counting. Yr. will have a nice time
if he tarries so long. I wonder if he will
think he will come before — I suspect
the welcome in my heart for him to come
the mess the world is in causing so much
worry make me feel it may be sooner.
Sat. P.M. I have come in to down on our arrangement.
This letter is doomed it seems — so I am
going to write what I can + leave
it to be mailed before I go back this
P.M. and this on + attempt at matter-
Am waiting at the Elsie's now as were waiting
for the dinner. Do you remember the black
hat that I had reblocked in N.Y. Well
he has done it done again + she served
that hat well do me all this term in
various remakings.

I Letters today from Peking tell that Raphael's
illness is so very unusual that it will
take a long time to determine its nature +
so severe that they have made slides of the
blood cells to send to 30 other hospitals. There surely
can be no comfort from fact of some
blessing coming to others from this
much investigation. Station helped
them 90 — some dollars on her fare.
Enough over
I must go on now to see
Marie + I'm say Goodbye —
all this flutter is a mess
but has lots lots of love
to my precious mother mine
I love you + pray
that your skin trouble
will be healed —
Love, Irene

Tsining, Shantung,
July 11, 1935

Dear Friends;

We made our first experiment in using an inn as headquarters for pioneer evangelistic work this year. I want to tell you something about that. The inns of Chinese towns are not like anything one sees in America. Each inn is a complete enclosure with all buildings opening on a central court. The only entrance is by the large street gate which in times when banditry is rife is shut promptly and securely at sunset. The guests are mostly folks travelling with loads of produce for sale. Some transport their merchandise in carts, some in barrows but many just carry it bound in two bundles tied to the two ends of a pole which is carried over the shoulder. Sometimes a group of pilgrims on their way to burn incense at some mountain shrine drop in. The guests arrive about sunset and are up and away at the crack of dawn. They give a mere pittance for a place to spread their pallets on the floor. Their beasts are stabled in the same court and at intervals during the night raise their raucous voices in braying that seems to afford them as much satisfaction as it affords disgust to the human guests who are trying to sleep.

In the past it was the frequent custom in opening up new work to buy in a village for the missionary and his helper a place to live and hold meetings. This proved to have some regrettable results. The villagers came to feel that the Christian faith was a foreign thing and might be expected to maintain a place of worship for them. Hence it was quite difficult to persuade converts to assume responsibility for their own churches. It seems wisest to begin in such a way that from the first they shall regard the church as their own. And this is best done by availing oneself of native resources as far as possible from the start. Hence the inn in spite of many drawbacks becomes the logical place for the evangelists to stay as they begin their work. It is the native provision for the "stranger within the gates." And did not the great One who was both Messenger and Message find His first earthly abode in the cattle shed of an inn?

On this first experiment of ours we lived for twenty six days in an inn. The owners of the inn were already inquirers for they had heard of the Christian gospel from relatives in other villages . We rented the large building at the north of the courtyard and there on a floor space of ten by thirty feet spread out our party and set up out domestic establishment. One end, separated from the rest by a screen of kaffir corn stalks, served as our bedroom. There after setting up our camp-cots we had just room enough left for our two suitcases and some books we had brought along. In the central section a table was placed against the wall opposite to the door and a couple of chairs and a few benches completed the furniture of our reception room. The other end furnished space for our helpers to spread their bedding and in one corner our travelling cup-board, our little oil stove and some pots and pans were placed, and presto, you behold our kitchen!

From the peep of dawn till ten or eleven at night our reception room was subject to invasion. Curious eyes sought to peep past the screen and solve the mystery of our strange foreign beds. Eager feet shuffled into the kitchen that their owners might see the marvellous stove. Incidentally they usually shut out the meager supply of light by which our cook was trying to see what he was cooking,and in other ways they sorely tried his patience. Each morning before breakfast and each night after our teaching period we had a devotional hour with the inquirers. Our hope was that they might learn the reality of communion with God just as fast as they learned the facts about Him.

Usually in the forenoons my helper and I visited neighboring villages and preached on the streets. The rest of the day was spent in

conversation with guests and informally teaching any inquirers who came to us. Stella spent much time in neighboring courtyards teaching the women and girls. As she was the only woman in our party and most of the inquirers were of her own sex she was busy indeed.

Our time of greatest activity was in the evening. THEN our reception room was crowded with women and girls striving to learn to read the catechism or Bible. Men and boys had to gather for their study in the millroom where during the daytime the women of the family, sometimes assisted by a donkey ground the flour to make steamed bread for the guests. With most of these folks the task of learning the truths of the Christian religion had to be combined with the task of learning to read the characters of their language.This is important in order to enable them to continue to learn and grow in knowledge when we cannot be with them to teach them.

To some we taught the national phonetic alphabet. This alphabet furnishes the quickest way for anyone to learn to read. Of course he will be limited in what he can read to what has been published in phonetic. But now many books are printed in the characters with the phonetic spelling of each character beside it. By this method anyone who has mastered the alphabet can read the book and by it also teach himself to read the characters. It thereby is proving itself the quickest and best way to a mastery of the characters of their language of which the Chinese are so proud.

One day a woman asked us to go to her home and remove the picture of the god of wealth from the wall and burn it. Although she had fully decided to get rid of this god,lifelong habit had given her a fear so she desired our presence and moral support. We went and assured her that her family's welfare depended on the true God alone and not on propitiating this image. At the same time as the picture of the god of wealth was taken down and burned a rack of cornstalks was taken from a place near the rafters. This rack was regarded as the resting place of ancestral spirits.She had some misgivings about this too as was proved by the fact that she spent a restless night after taking this step. Next morning she questioned whether it might not be that the disturbed family spirits, deprived of their resting place, had plagued her with dreams. But she was reassured and further instructed and is now going forward joyfully in her new faith.

There were many other places which we visited during the spring and many other events of which we would like to tell. But these must suffice for the present.

Of an event of another kind I must tell a bit. Near the end of June we spent about ten days at our biennial mission meeting.When we all gather from our separated mission stations in general conclave we have a grand reunion. Our tasks draw us so close together in sympathy and yet our opportunities to get together and talk are so rare that the atmosphere of our meeting is right stimulating.With rich Bible study and devotional hours together, with full business sessions, committees and conferences and occasional lighter hours of home talent entertainment,and all interspersed with eager visiting, the days pass.

This year while our mission meeting was in progress, one of the older and most honored members of our mission, the Rev T.N.Thompson, passed away in the hospital in Tsinan. This event but deepened our sense of the deep ties of fellowship that bind us together in our task. The thought of years of faithful service and our faith in Christ just lifted the burden of sorrow and transmuted it into a great sense of triumph.

We had the privilege of seeing one person of whom you must all have read and would no doubt like to see. It was Helen Priscilla Stam, the little baby so wonderfully saved last winter when her parents were murdered by communist bandits. She was with her grandparents the Rev. and Mrs. C.E.Scott who are members of our mission.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Deane C. Walter

民國郵政明信片

右邊只寫收信人姓名住址

Mrs. E. J. Forsythe
718 Jefferson Street
Oregon City
Oregon
U.S.A.

Tsingtao Aug 27-

Dear Mrs Forsythe

Am afraid you will be surprised to receive a card from me, but I have been thinking of you all the time - so much so that I could not rest until I had written to you. I know you will be glad to hear that we are all well & enjoying life here in Tsingtao. The weather is very hot now, but we have a nice cool house to live in. Hoping you are all well as this leaves us at present.

Yours sincerely
Ethel Soper

enjoy the days out there
this summer. I had some
good tennis + some grand
swims picnics + dinners
besides the times for
individual talks with
Ruth + Gardner off + for
Karen for a chance +
rest — Baby is so cute
I can't cried for her but
just hunts her + yesterday
said "Mamé does want me
any more"! She's running
Home Kept children a day
now all ers are here with them
Anita's brother + Sister-in-law.
So glad for your surprise
letter sister mine. Thank you
for it — I'll answer it
later. I've written a big letter
to Roseburg S.S. + a nice
chatty one to Warren —
Much much love my
loved ones. Irene

AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN MISSION,
NEW 2 TSI YANG ROAD,
TSINGTAO, SHANTUNG, CHINA.

September 10, 1935

Dearest Mumsie dear:

Am back from the country - a two weeks trip - & find some letters here from you & now I'll try to write a bit. This day has been so full but want to get it in as soon as possible. It is almost six now but can write a while. We got in Fri. P.M. - & I rested a time & had callers. Then Sat P.M. we went out to Swallow Island to the Y.M.C.A. camp for the Chinese conference the last two days of it. It was six days all together but we got in for two days - having been definitely bad to stay out there where we were. The camp is a big building with six smaller ones for sleeping on a high promontory further on than the Huk. It is a delightful spot with sea all around & so quiet. Then there was a lovely witness meeting out under the moonlight on the circle of stones. Tsingtao formerly had five temples right in the city — but this mayor is bound to please all of the gods — he built a fine road up the hilly approach to the camp & then asked to repair the old temple — but he built a new one !! not 200 yds from our Y.M.C.A. camp; Ideas repaired so many & built a new one here on a high nt in Tsingtao. Too bad! We had some wonderful times out at the camp especially talking with a Miss Ma, a most earnest spiritually keen young woman from Lintsing who came for the meetings. Sun. eve. came in

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with Mr. Coimrodt, Yesterday I cleared up some business letters + wrote some + had callers all afternoon, was out to Schultz, permans under Lutheran mission here, to dinner. It was a lovely dinner. Came home early for a prayer appointment — Today has been the same callers + folks here this a.m. + two guests for lunch. One a cousin of Mrs Fair recently married + a friend of hers. I was so sleepy during meal — but at last we got to talking of Lord's return + then we all forgot sleepiness as we both witnessed to what the Lord had been doing to us these years. If come out that either were at all sure they were saved or not — I frankly admitted great doubt as to it. We did so praise Him for we didn't just want it to be a useless social affair. My! this friend was so hungry + so eager! She is near the Master surely; Surely it is unusual — but expected the way the master, does just send talks to us who are in spiritual need. She more am willing to just call sin sin ruthlessly + writhes to alter what He has done for me how much more the Holy Spirit has been use us to help alter. It surely is a joy but the planned letters do not get written — well the letters must that have been His will for today! A Kaomi pastor was in

AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN MISSION,
NEW 2 TSI YANG ROAD,
TSINGTAO, SHANTUNG, CHINA.

the a.m. + we had a fine task! These weeks up in some villages in some wonderful mountain nes here have been wonderful. In one place it was especially nice. We lived in 4 new rooms the highest in village - above us rose the mountain - all the wonderful bracing air - scent of pine trees + running water! It just thrilled me. We were going back after to spend some quiet resting time there in summer. The nights were lovely. We stood around in evening on a big rock under a tall tree beside the running brook - under stars — + there were fireflies (first I've seen here) flying thru the darkness; The Lord himself led over twenty to a new clearing out + almost for the first time - actually got out the sins that were the real blocks in their Knowing Christ. They were so eager + hungry that they put harvest off - + we had four sessions each day! Bible studies etc - They sorried prayer. They till the land owned by the temple near + they did something forbidden by the priest + when he objected they took it to court - They were wrong + know it + the biggest thing of all was the absolute confession of the elder who was at fault — They want now to make it right but the law suit isn't finished + has bled them to poverty! They are repentant - eventually God will help them out - but Christ's warning was so true - Make peace with thine enemy or way to court for if you do not get out until your last penny is spent!" Too bad they couldn't take Christ's word literally before!

So glad you had room for Aunt Callie + Arthur + like your new little home. Hope you will find great joy + peace in it. Nice to have extra bed! Hope you had a nice vacation up at Sisters with Arthur's; Fine that the boys could help you move. Yes, I'm sure you're glad to get all together the furniture pictures etc. What is your next future?

That was nice you had a visit with Clyde - Yes, the Lord sent you back to help Eula — I think too ! Yes, I remember the Spagles + their nice home + about the lilies. We never did get nice flowers from them tho. Mary took pains with them. I don't know why - climate maybe — Ho thank her for the $5. It was so sweet of her to remember me. I will try to use it for myself - Needs of flood refugees are so great now ! Praise Him — it means to me then gifts — just tokens of the Father's sweet love. My how much of His love + grace now filled our lives. More than we can ever repay. The more one tries to give back in loving service the more grace surrounds one ! So after all it is - "an unworthy servant" that we are. Warner quits at Br. well I'm telling against I guess - tho I do not feel it ! Thank you for the clear list of the property - not that it is worth so much now - but necessary to have it + glad to know. Thank you for the lantern — I always am glad for the additions - tho I have plenty. Jamie does well in music. mine to get Bill all thru — I'm far from my aim. We were hoping to do it last year but not thru yet. I'd like to + thru gospels now + check actually what I am living out what I'm not — in obedience actual obedience — not mere mental acceptance. We've had 1.19 on our first rabbit wool that was a little bit only — now we've a larger amount to send to England. Have 5 + two pairs of the young ones + will be ready before so long maybe to let them be spread more in country. J.O. Wang, a Shanghai business man, an earnest Christian, will deal in England for us. Yes — I hope they pay the market is very bad too — as Angora wool is rather a luxury ! Time for supper — Schools began today 210 girls in ! W + F. Have a new principal + hope to get more Christian influence in school. Japan has put to Emperor-worship a rule that all schools must worship at shrine but Christian schools too. It is a big problem but from that strange to say, catholic pope had consented to it. Persecutions may get worse and worse as His return

comes near

Sha Kou, Sept 23, 1935

Dearest mummie mine + all my
loved ones there;

Here is a man going in to
Tsingtao in the morning so this is
my only chance to get a letter off
to you until we get back home
in another ten days or so, as this
afternoon while we have a little
a little bit — so you'll have a
letter matter mine.

Today we were supposed to go
on after 9 days here but we
have had such a strenuous time
+ yesterday walked to another
village for church services there
+ all — so were just weary —
needed to bake some bread,
wash too so were slept a
lot today + not had classes.

This is a grape nation —
day by day carries with

days — that even tho busy they have taken time out — to come to two long sessions for Bible Study morning + afternoon + then another at night.

We taught here until only two non-christians here but to our joy christians came from nearby villages + the elder here, several years ago built a six-room building for a church, several folks just came here to stay. One man, a third generation christian who was never converted but been a "prodigal" three years — came + after a few days felt convicted became one day poured out his sins — was given power to quit his tobacco, opium, wine, yesterday he gave a wonderful witness at church, + he has just been the problem of family. When he got home his wife saw a change + said "my! you have brought Jesus home with you". We saw her yesterday + she was overjoyed!

baskets on each end of a carrying pole & swinging by to the bus station - where they are shipped to Tsingtao & on to Shanghai.

My! never have I eaten such a quantity of grapes! We've had some given to us & then we've bought some. They are surely delicious. The Master's grace is just too much; it does seem that the more one wants to give oneself in loving service for return, his grace just leaps up & up & one can never catch up with it — just have to call oneself an "unprofitable servant" & never hope to get beyond that!

We surely feel that we have just had leaped up blessings day by day that we never can be grateful enough; for the loving appreciation of the christians & their eagerness in these busy

a non-Christian woman who had for forty-five years not spoken to a relative went with two other Christians & went to make up with her. There were six non C. who indicated their intention of believing There however hasn't comprised sin & so the "intentions" are not always to be depended on! The Bible class has been just such a joy! I sometimes wonder whether the "cloak of Godly Si" has descended on me anyway — the Master has given great joy especially in these places this fall in going carefully into the Lord's Return teaching. Here mid six days with about 4 hours of study per day! My! our sessions are sessions! We were talking last night about it & saying we must cut down every service 2 hr or 2½ — Ray don't faint!! Have to sing & learn new choruses —

5/ + then the class! fortunately, but for the Lord for us
is only once is two years // It was
two years ago we were here. We can
see growth in the time. Last time
the two families of christians here
were extremely nominal only but
now they've gone on + it has been
a joy to be here! Of course they
are just children, + the "big family"
problems are numerous + just
now a step-matter in one home
adds complications — But He
is able! The elder apologized to his
wife in public the after noon of
+ many others got all sorts of
blocks + sins out! It has been
a joy truly! We hoped for more
fruit from non-christians but
the building has been full each
night! Seed-sowing, too, is
essential so the results are
in His will.

Yesterday went fine. Up to
lead service. Three other christians
came from centers too far to reach
here.

Some of the dear old ladies, earnest + devoted christians you'd love matter. One old lady, Mr. Fu, picked her sweetest fresh dates + brought them to us. She can't read characters well - but carries her worn Bible wherever she goes + says she just loves to look at it! How some do not believe + she's asked us to pray — you take these requests munnie dear. + a Mrs. Yen who has been a Bible woman for years has a renegade of a husband + has asked prayer for him. a widow + her son here too, Mr. Chang.

To pray for our physical strength — we sorely need that + Miss Law has gotten her

6/ I rode a mule there —— but two had to lead a service & be so tired & empty just empty. Praise him who never fails the Master just came himself & led it — & my weariness was over half gone! Miss Hus had afternoon service & we got home by sunset to have supper & go to night meeting! This is a fruit section & we had apricots, persimmons, grapes & pears at Elder Chang's yesterday. He has orchards. It was to him we sent the velvet seed! Thejie repaired the church & wall in three years & my we were delighted —— Six years ago the my first time, we went there farming implements were in the church & a cow kept in church yard. Thejie gone on too — the old Elder has given up his pipe in recent meetings. He still needs to go on — wine too is a hindrance —

winter bronchitis early — mostly
not till after November + here
it is now — a chronic thing
that holds on till spring.
Please pray for her real
healing. Medicine doesn't
seem to touch it at all!
Satan's wiles; to hinder us —
Give love to all there —
I just praise God for you all
the boys + Margie +
your homes where Christ is
honored — my what
a difference from the
heathen atmosphere of superstition
+ dirt + lack of love —
Must love dear —
must get up work for
+ dress — time meeting
Love — Irene

Home -
Oct 21, 1935

Dearest Mumsie;

By terrific effort I repatten off a letter to Mrs. Burkhart. I just after she's gotten addset to send out printed ones I send her just one copy to let the Board do as they wish with! But this is best I can do this time. Now in here are a print copy & three carbons of the letter I sent Mrs. B. a pre corrected copy. These aren't corrected. Will you have time to correct them & make any use you can of them. Mrs. Putney S.W. Org. Pres. Sec. wrote for a letter — please get one rather decently corrected for her. She'll get what Board sends out but this will be fuller. Edith Weber wrote wanting short incidents — how about giving her one — for these short incidents — Tell her, it is for that She'll use as you want — If not usable put them in waste basket!

I have typed since 5:30 P.M. now I'll have to go to prayer meeting & lunch at Station at Marys So I'll write more later —

Love,

Irene

Hua Li Chuang
October 29, 1935

Dearest Mumsie Min - all:
Just a letter full of good
wishes from the Chiene family
here. Old Mrs. Tsai, now 93,
sent word to please remember
her to you. There is a man
going into Irinqtao tomorrow so
I am hurrying off a letter -
I feel I have treated you just
miserably. Yours had my
last letter with those poor
carbon copies already + just
a scratch from me so going
have word to ever so limited
You know that I still am !!
We have been at a nearby
village all day - were going
back + forth each day +
having noon meal there pre-
pared by a Christian family
There isn't room for us to
live there so were going back

3| needed the rest + it was a lousy time in the country + if I'd stayed in so long, if well, I'd have felt lazy + not on my job So as it was I was kept in to rest + kept from going a rushing pace here + there to meetings + ~~to~~ out dinners. I was lazy until the last few days when I just tore around getting off Christmas gifts + cards + that report, So now just got that rotated of a letter. I just must practice typing - it is such an agony to get off anything readable + I spent ~~five~~ four hours making that short copy + it wasn't very good at that. It is just a few times a year that I have a chance to touch one + then it is not easy - Well, it is up to Stan, I'll

& forth night & morning. Just a nice walk about a mile, We enjoy it. Have so often felt cooped up in small courtyards & little exercise So this is especially nice to have the work & then to come back to home. at night & have a night meeting here with them here in the hall off the bed room where old Mrs. Law sleeps. Sometimes we hear her praying out loud during our service. But before I go on with this news I'll pick up some of the interval. We came in from that pioneer place & I got a cold - not terribly severe but enuf to keep me in bed & from going out at all & miserable enuf to just sleep. I guess we all just

is always sufficient for the time.
Your letter has been interrupted twice - first by Third Sister-in-law bringing in a tray of supper - a tray with bowls + chop sticks with two bowls of vegetable - one of meat balls fried + steamed one of carrots + beef, and steamed cabbage + meat "poo tzu" with Kiaoliang tea to drink. She is a good cook, the one who did all the fine cooking when the family was altogether + 40 in the family! We did not begun to eat when cook came in to announce that a student I've helped thru High School had come. Then there was excitement for we were expecting to suggest a marriage arrangement with Mrs Tai's sister. You will laugh at this! After supper all of the family went to prayer

5] meeting & we had him lead so
long Mii had a chance to see
him on the sly & all the family (& unknown to him)
to look him over — which is
most unusual in old Chinese
customs — Then after church
Miss Hua & I talked with him
He was willing to leave it
to us entirely! Wasn't that
seem funny? It does to
me even as "Chinese" as I
am in thinking over these
things — Then we talked with
Miss Tan & her mother & finally
with the girl — She was pretend-
ing to be asleep but laughed
when we tried to waken her,
We did not mention it to
her but guess she may
have suspected. She too left
it to us to decide!!! So I
guess that means that it is
decided! Funny! Now in the

7] clouded amytiest — I have had them for a while, thought this color would enjoy. Anyway there is just heaps of love sent with them !!

Ruth as usual was just lovely to me + is so nice to include me in her family doings. Lydia Reich just came back from America + there were several welcome meals for her. It was nice. At least I had to sit down to eat a decent meal — It was nice to see her back. We came out with Mr. Coonradt in the car + my it made the trip easy + nice. I brought a lovely chrysanthemum — laughed at that — asked him before if he'd draw me out to see that in the car — He was very patient about it. We had a day of pouring rain after we arrived +

by morning we must talk to him about size of loaves of bread & number & presents to come with the engagement announcement! Life is not dull at least eh! This is not the first I've had a finger in! Funny! But it is a real problem in the churches - the problem of Christian girls marrying Non-christians etc — So this is just one of my duties of the day -

Now to continue the letter - Mr. Law in the Post office surely was a help to me in getting Christmas things off - I sent to each one that was troubling your Mother as in years before. Not much for each one. I hope you'll enjoy your gift — they are

I slept all day! Needed it after the get-off. This time I ~~took out~~ the electric lights + meter — no use to pay 4.00 a month + not even be there — Turned out water — do not know when I'll be back in + might freeze —

There has been a wonderful conversion here. It began when Miss Fairbrother came home — a young man who had been the worst blasphemer + everything on the calendar. It was left for us to "pick the ripe fruit" We had a couple hours with him — + he poured out such a volume oh! It is well the Cross is wide + his love is deep. Tobacco + liquor have been cleared out + they are small sins! His mother now can breathe a bit easier + can all the village! Had threatened several to bring in bandits! Must close, dearest to you — late now must stop — Writing is so unsatisfactory Even your Irene

Hsu-li Chuang
November 2, 1935

Dearest Mumsie:

Well, today we're having a big rain so that means everyone stay at home. It is impossible for us to go to Huang Wen & it may be impossible tomorrow. Anyway I guess the Master knew we needed a rest — at least He is giving us today. I want to answer the letter that a messenger brought out last night & the several others that I have held up & brought with me — How I do praise God that He has these three months given me release from painful times! Yesterday I went just the same to Huang wen, well bundled up & had a good day — Was a bit weary at night & the cook led the prayer meeting but there is so much to praise Him for, I'm asking Him for us this winter as free from colds & illness — My faith may not be enuf for that big request & it may not be His will — as I see sometimes He gives it that we may have the needed rest — but I'm expecting much, lers

this winter. Mrs Tan has a chronic trouble heart when I do pray she should be freed I'd will cure her. I know! Three five days at Hsiang Wen have been blessed. Yesterday Mrs Hsia + 3 prayed with four - 3 women + a girl who just poured out a burden of sin. (Lustful) There were all, non-C. until 3 years ago a man + his wife lived there a year + half to evangelize - Just how they carried on or what they emphasized we do not know but there is a remnant of interested ones — who have learned a few characters + had some instruction but who have not been united in any way to Jesus himself — just an interested nearness In prayer we were directed to go to them We had it thought we would perhaps — but I guess the Holy Spirit just knew that that they were ready for this step - so this week we've just preached sin in all its forms + Chinese customs, home life + heart-life — (not all are sinful) insomnia of the They were under conviction — a little girl in Teens not having slept for two nights + unable to eat; We thought today would give time to pray with the rest but evidently they need to think of their sins a bit more + God has given them today — So we

31 will go tomorrow if roads passable & the Master so wills. If not we'll have church services with the larger group here —

My one woman poured out a tale of a life of suffering & misery & sin! Her husband (dead now) used to believe & she persecuted him & was not in the least interested — but now she says 'I don't know know how but I want to believe'

His prayers in Heaven have power. I wonder do the prayers of those already there in Heaven have more power than the prayers of those on earth — who knows — but I've seen many like this — but still others too whose believing parents are dead & they've not turned. I rather think their prayers may be more pure than ours, with greater faith, having their own vision of Christ so much more than we; they maybe more earnest in prayer — It rather makes me have more hope for Warrens than for Baldy Si can't but be praying for them. Several in that group had grandfathers who believed & just now they are coming.

Here's a story of Belated Seed-growing!

And Mr. Hunter Corbett gave a man a Bible in a village about 6 miles from here. Last year just that man became

4) interested when a relative, a christian came back home from up in Manchuria + set up a medicine shop a few li away. This man, Mr. Hsun to whom Bible was given has cleared out a three-room house + fixed it for a meeting place. Our Elder from near here goes every other Sunday to them. They have a big family, over 20, + all are interested. Were to go to them later. It is just like that all over new places opening all the time!

Our problems too, tho, of christians proving unworthy + especially the old believer, baptized without any real experience of conversion, who do not repent now but still carry the name + outwardly go to church etc. Wheat + tares — not a new problem however! Jesus told of them long ago + there was Judas! Oh! my the burden is heavy for so many "malturlers babes to be nurtured", We do not have adequate spiritual leaders — too many pastors aren't as good, some weak, as new christians. So there are joys + there are burdens too. — it is the

5] that makes one old + white-haired !! (I'm getting there - I'll be your twin by Jan's mum) - what Paul called 'the care of the chucks' With all this I realize again the great responsibility placed on us + again I marvel that I have been allowed to be one of the ones to bear it! Why little me!

Your letter of yesterday was Sept 30's.

That was a surprise to know of your new house-mate. That is fine that you have the company + I hope you will both be very happy. That's nice you have the extra furniture + radio but nicer to have congenial companionship. How are you managing? Is she sharing rent, light, heat etc? Are you cooking your own food? I rather hope so - then you'll be able to keep to your diet + not have the strain of playing for another. Who builds the fires? I need not ask I know you do! I remember the Bells near Hubbard but I can't seem to recall where Mrs. Vanderpool lived. It wasn't she we visited just out in her driveway at Bend was it? You never told me you sent there? Has she been living by herself before?

Blessed Mummie Mine, to be thinking of

(2) whether I've any food - canned things etc!
Never worry a minute about me - With such
a wonderful Jesus to look after me you
need not worry! My! Mumie I say, we
have just the merest of things to eat really!
I put up a few bottles of tomato juice + a
few glasses of strawberry jam + 2 or 3 qts of cherries
that's all the cans I have + do not want more
Rev Mr C., often gives me some at Christmas
+ Mrs Lautenschlager gave me a couple qts
of jam before I came away! I eat little
of such things + glass cans aren't convenient
to carry — never take more than 2 or 3 for
long trips even — I don't eat much sweet
dessert etc - I have tomato juice to take
cod liver oil in when I feel tired — (just
a little high-power energizer) Eula, try giving
it to the boys in tomato juice, can't taste
it at all. See, I'm now so adjusted to
Chinese food that I do not depend much
on canned things. My! our food in comparison
to average country folks is good!!
Their food tho is very nutritious — God makes
it up to the poor in that here. The steamed
millet cakes have beanflour which is a
meat substitute, sweet potatoes give a

7] quantity of sugar. So your whole cereal (minus roughage, protien + sugar) in the daily staples besides vegetables. We've been feasting this week - Thyra fixed such nice food for us at Thanksgiving + two evenings ago we came home to find two families here — Sixth-sister-in-law + great sister-in-law (about 78 years old + one who just so loves the Lord) had fixed the New Year party for us, using fine white flour meat + vegetables. Mistaris matter as such a good cook! Dayton ful," my why do I deserve such good things"! I know it is just from the abundance of the Lord's loving to Him, some accept it as same Spirit for all comes from Him! Ho not worry Mumie Mine, about me. I'm ever so well cared for!! Yes dear, far away but not far in Him, + it will surely not be long before His coming. May we all be ready to meet Him unashamed. My this year here each town is providing for flood refugees! When I think of them + the how favored I am + you + all of our family - I wonder how I can ever repay it in loving

service, Sermons I try the more grace is piled up — so am natting but an unworthy servant after all! Can't ever catch up with His grace!

Sorry about Eula's fast but glad it is better so she can be out.

My! were you just swamped with that package of pictures of "Kneeling child."! Considered the big ones to go to churches + 2000 of the little cards for individuals + here the bill came, an enormous one, they were out of the little cards so sent all that lot of medium sized pictures! I was amazed but it was done. They gave me the right to pay what I could — so I paid $8- rather than $10.34. I'd no idea of such an order- If you + Mr. Burkhard can't use them all send them to the Board they may be able to use some!! That was a big order to put on you. I thought the wee picture cards would be useful + not so expensive — for those who'd given money. Maybe it will turn out best this way + maybe it was His Will after all. Do best you can with them dear + I'll pay postage.

after - was stupid to send Bud's letter to Oregon City
Sorry. I think the Christmas gift of (must wash this pen it is a mess) money is sent. There are so many calls & I have needed articles now enuf. I'm so sorry I didn't get a gift off to Sara Fox - it slipped my mind I guess - at present I see no way to send one, & I didn't even send her a card & have none here- I'll see what I can do — Give Lucy my love Minnie. I wrote her about a year ago & haven't heard - Wonder how she is.
Your other letters are from Sisters! Nice you could visit them - For some unaccountable reason one rose, "Los Angeles", just died. The others are doing nicely & they are at Mrs. Van Leuvens She'll plant them there. Had some gorgeous buds to enjoy while Home - "Pres. Hoover" is doing the best just fine. They are lovely!
You spoke of Sat. & Sun. being all mixed up at Sister's Yes I remember when we went up it was so,
Your lady's statement about advertists having visited 95% of China & that they were doing more for missions than any three of the big churches - are rather wide statements. I haven't statistics here for all of China The

number of missionaries etc — maybe her last statement meant that Adventists in U.S. gave more money per person than any of the large denominations. I fear I do not know, but I'd not believe it without some facts. I've had little contact personally with anyone. There was a nice couple in language school but I do not know where they are. This fall I heard more because Mrs Hsu's cousin had gone to sell books for them + to their Bible Training school. His father was talking, trying to get the Pres. there too to join Adventists. The common statement here is that the groups discussing it was that they do not get many new converts, they are mostly those which they persuade from other churches — already Christian. They have a chapel in Tsingtao — but not many people in that one! They sell literature but Mr. Chang (who is in business in Tsingtao) says they (these were Chinese agents) were so obnoxious — forcing one to buy. For a while they wore uniforms + said the wrapped up package was an official document + - + after the man would open it force the payment of the $1 — (half of which went to the salesman). Now this is between us only — I'm not publicly criticizing them at all.

11. & it may only be the fault of a few here + not a policy at all. I believe it surely is that. A question of these individuals. I'd surely trust be willing to say every Pres. in our district lives up to Christs standard but I should'nt feel it fair to have all judged by one so I'll say no more. I was so interested to hear of the mill + Hazel's family + all. She must have real ability to manage them all! Time for the country Thank Hazel for her prayers remembering me so often. So Alice is dead - remember how pretty she was. Your vacation was nice, you saw most of your people + those who mean much to you The change was good!

Isn't the Lord good? That article "Children Choral" in Women + Missions brought a $10.00 gold gift from an unknown friend — slid read the article + sent them that money. It came just as Mr. Conradt was going down. I hujd never had a table for a pulpit so he got one for $6 Mrs. & the rest of the money we used to send old Elder Jung [(81 yrs old) no home, no land + no visible means of support only as the Lord gives him,] down there for 3 months or more. So had the youngsters services, teach them to read the Chinese characters, + include Old Testament + letters thru the long winter months to help them. Just

when they needed it — + before we knew of their special need — here the Lord sent the money. I wrote Clara N. Cooper - that is her name how fittingly her gift arrived! It was sweet of Miss Thurman to write. The use of that one report justifies the writing - even tho many may not care so for them. I do not know which letter she refers to but I sent her one of the six Extra copies of "Women + Missions" which the Board sent me with that of "Childrens Church" in it. Miss Thurman is a real woman of God - used to be at Moody. Thank her for her prayers too! Ever know her?

Now I must close. There are other letters to get off too, Ben so glad for a bit of time for a visit. Mr. Van Deusen connects with an amateur radio line + if you get a message forwarded from me you send postage to the one who picked up the message,

Much much love to your dearest ones, I am so glad we've such a Saviour to whom I can trust you. May He give deep peace + contentment + keep you all well,

Lovingly, Yours

Irene